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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Medical Service in the Rumanian Army

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1. The following three head offices are in charge of health and medical care of army personnel and of animals belonging to military units:
  - a. The Sanitation Office of the Army. (Medical Office of the Army)
  - b. The Pharmaceutical Office of the Army.
  - c. The Veterinary Office of the Army.
2. The Sanitation Office of the Army: (Medical Office of the Army): It is under the authority of the Ministry of Armed Forces. The office has several bureaus each dealing with special medical problems; the general medical situation, venereal diseases, contagious diseases, military hygiene, etc. Other medical offices, which are all under the authority of the Medical Office of the Army, function at the military regions and the various commands; air force, navy, mountaineer troops, etc.
3. The divisions have their own medical offices which have the following personnel:
 

One medical doctor with a military rank of captain or major  
Two medical (sanitation) sub-officers.  
Three sanitation agents, (See note below)

The medical office of the division is in charge of the medical supervision of all units under the division's authority. The office keeps medical files and also insures the necessary medical care for the division's personnel. The regiments and the independent battalions have their medical offices which have the following personnel:

- One lieutenant-doctor or a major-doctor.  
One sanitation sub-officer.  
Three or four sanitation agents (Note: must be "sick room attendants")  
Two professional nurses.

25X1

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SECRET

-2-

4. The Pharmaceutical Office of the Army: It is in charge of supplying the medical offices of the army with medicines and medical instruments. The office has authority over the central medical depot located on the Soseaua P. S. Aurelian, in Bucharest. The office also has authority over all pharmacies belonging to the military hospitals and to the army commands. The office's head is a colonel-pharmacist.  
Rumania.
5. The Veterinary Office of the Army: It is in charge of maintaining in good health the animals used by the army. Veterinary offices are set up at all army commands where troops have horses. Veterinary offices also exist in cavalry units, horse-drawn artillery units, mountaineer units. Such veterinary offices are staffed with one veterinarian and one veterinary attendant. They carry out only "visiting" duties and whenever hospitalization is needed public veterinary hospitals are used.
6. Medical Office of the Air Force: The members of the crews are carefully examined twice a year by the flights medical commission, headed by a president and staffed with specialists in heart, lungs, nose, throat, ears, eyes, etc. If a pilot is found by the commission to be physically unfit to fly he is barred from flying either temporarily or, in serious cases, permanently. The air force divisions' medical offices keep medical files and carry out medical inspections of the subordinate units. The air force regiments and the battalions in charge of servicing airports have their own medical offices which are organized in the same way as those of the ground troops.
7. The duties of the regimental doctor:
  - a. A detailed medical checkup of the recruits. The recruits are weighed, measured, examined internally (including X rays), and vaccinated. The vaccines are typhoid and paratyphoid. The recruits are also inoculated against smallpox. All these inoculations take place within one month after the recruits enter the service. Each 6 months re-vaccinations are carried out, as well as shots against typhoid.
  - b. Medical inspection of all buildings in use: offices, dormitories, mess halls, workshops, guardrooms, etc.
  - c. Checking the quality of unprepared food as well as that of the meals, by making daily tests.
  - d. A monthly medical checkup of the troops. The doctor also sees that the troops take their weekly bath.
  - e. The test tubes with samples from the daily meals are kept 48 hours.
  - f. A medical checkup and blood analysis of cooks and food handlers every two weeks.
  - g. Medical help for officers, sub-officers and their families.
8. Light cases are treated at the unit's infirmary. In case of prolonged treatments or in case of operations, the patients are sent to the military hospitals. The medical care in the hospitals is unsatisfactory because of the bureaucratic red tape. These procedures leave the patient unattended and without medical care for 8 to 10 days after he enters the hospital. In some instances, patients were left

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

without food, as well. There is a serious shortage of doctors for the high number of sick persons. There is also scarcity in medicines and medical equipment: gloves, thread, surgical instruments, etc. Special authorization must be granted for administering penicillin and streptomycin. Due to such formalities, very often the patient has died before the treatment could be administered. The special authorizations are given more easily for soldiers who are members of the Communist party, because in such cases the interventions are made by and through the party.

9. Medical treatment for the officers' and sub-officers' families, even in cases of special treatments carried out by civilian clinics or hospitals, are paid by the Ministry of Armed Forces.
10. Generally speaking the health conditions (hygiene) of the air force units are good but the food is bad. Many soldiers have stomach diseases because of the bad food. In some units, special approval has been obtained to secure diets for the sick men. The men cannot better the food situation because they do not have money and because they are not allowed to receive packages from their families. This measure was taken so that the civilians would not know that the army food is bad. When the men complain about the food, the political commissars hold lectures in which they emphasize the bad situation of the army during the "bourgeois" times. At such lectures they also tell stories from the lives of the Soviet soldiers calling them "the bravest in the world".
11. The most widespread illnesses are: stomach ailments, venereal diseases and tuberculosis of the lungs.

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